

The Communications-Computer Systems Career Field

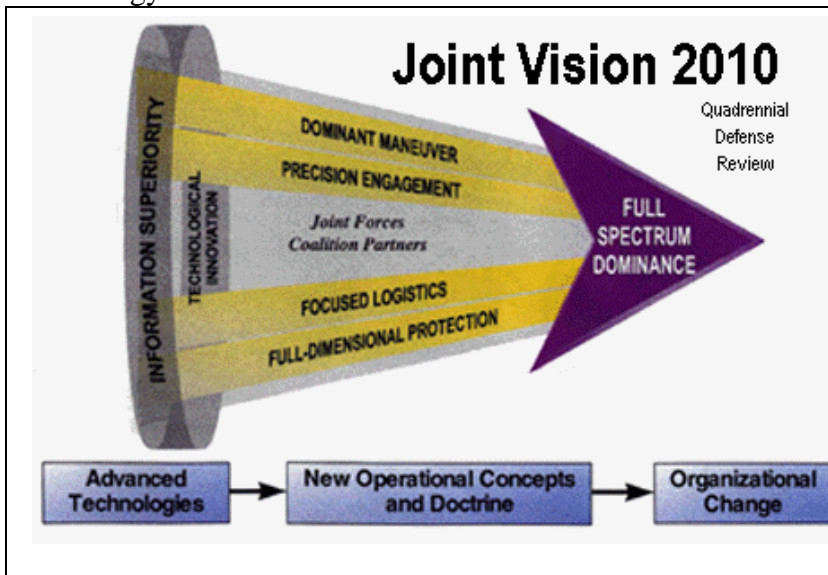
The mission of the Department of Defense is to deter threats of organized violence against the United States and its interest, and to defeat such threats should deterrence fail (National Military Strategy of the United States of America, 1997).

Objectives

1. Recognize how communication-computer systems personnel contribute to the information technology projects;
2. Identify typical functional responsibilities of DoD personnel within the communications—computer systems career field;
3. Identify potential career opportunities within the communications—computer systems career field.

Joint Vision 2010 (diagrammed below) is the conceptual template for joint operations and warfighting in the future. JV 2010 rests on the foundations of information superiority and technological innovation. Information superiority is the capability to collect, process, and disseminate an uninterrupted flow of precise and reliable information, while exploiting or denying an adversary's ability to do the same. Success in any operation depends on our ability to quickly and accurately integrate critical information and deny the same to an adversary.

A globally vigilant intelligence system that is able to operate in a complex environment with an increasing number of potential opponents and more sophisticated technology is critical. It



must overcome increasingly varied means of deception and protect and secure its information channels.

Robust intelligence and assured information systems are also critical to the command and control of our forces. The ability to gather, process, and disseminate an uninterrupted flow of

reliable and precise information under any condition is a tremendous strategic and military advantage. A secure Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) architecture must be designed

and developed from the outset for rapid deployment and with joint and multinational interoperability in mind.



By 2010, we should be able to enhance the capabilities of our forces through technology. To exploit the enormous potential of technology, we must develop in a systematic manner, the full range of required enhancements. This process must begin with a new conceptual framework for operations. The basis for this framework is found in the improved **command, control and intelligence** which can be assured by information superiority.

The Communications—Computer Systems career field includes:

- computer systems analysts
- information management specialists
- telecommunications managers
- software/automation specialists
- computer engineers
- and many more jobs!!

Some of the tasks professionals are called upon to perform include:

- acquisition of automated information systems and interconnecting components. This includes hardware, software, and firmware products (such as computers, ancillary equipment, software, telecommunications, and other related services).
- providing direct support for the acquisition of automated information systems
- manipulating data and information.

In providing direct support for the acquisition of automated information systems, you may be called upon to:

- identify requirements

- write and/or review specifications
- identify costs
- obtain resources (manpower, funding, and training)
- test, evaluate, plan, obtain, and manage life cycle support (operations, maintenance, and replacement).

In the management and manipulation of data and information, you may be called upon to:

- create....
- record....
- produce....
- store....
- retrieve....
- process....
- transmit....
- disseminate....
- present....
- display....

data and information.

The Communications-Computer Systems Career Field:

<p>Communications-Computer Systems careerists are generally employed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major command headquarters • Service component headquarters • Directorates of Information Systems for C4 • Program management offices • DoD acquisition agencies • Defense Contract Management Command. 	<p>Computer related job series include:</p> <p>0301, 0334, 0343, 0391,0392, 0801,0854,0855, 1101, 1102, 1515, 1550</p> <p>Army AOC: 51R</p> <p>Navy AQD: AR</p> <p>Air Force AFSC: 33SX, 61SXA, 62EXC, 63AXB, and comparable enlisted AFSCs</p> <p>Marine Corps MOS: 4002, 9646, 2502, 2602, and 2802</p> <p>Short descriptions of these job series can be found in our Resource Library.</p>
---	---

In order to obtain certification at Level I in the Communications-Computer Systems career field, an employee must have:

- one year of acquisition experience in communications/computer systems
- completed the training course ACQ 101, Fundamentals of Systems Acquisition Management
- completed the training course IRM 101, Basic Information Systems Acquisition

- a baccalaureate degree is desired, preferable with a major in computer science, management of automated information systems, business administration, or a related field.

The requirements and desired qualifications for level II certification are shown below:

<p>At Level I (grade levels GS-5 through GS-9 and O-1 through O-3), typical assignments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEO staff • communications and/or computer staff • PM office staff • systems engineering staff • Software development staff 	<p>This career field requires one year acquisition experience in communications and computer systems. A baccalaureate degree is preferred. For the following job series, a degree is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0801, 0854, 0855 • 1515, 1550 <p>For more information on computer related job series, see our Resource Library.</p>
--	---

When you are working in a Level I position, you will most likely be part of the Acquisition Workforce. Members of the acquisition workforce are certified at different levels (Level I, II and III). Information regarding the Acquisition Workforce is available within DoD through the Acquisition Workforce home page.

Once an employee has been certified at Level II, it is a good idea to start preparing to meet the criteria for the Acquisition Corps. The Acquisition Corps is a select group of GS-14 and GS-15 employees who encumber or are eligible to encumber Critical Acquisition Positions. Up to this point, unless you have occupied a non-designated position, you have been part of the Acquisition Workforce. DoD and each of the Services have their own Acquisition Corps. Once accepted into the Acquisition Corps, you are eligible for any Critical Acquisition Position, regardless of Service.

Criteria for selection into the Acquisition Corps for civilian personnel includes:

- serving in a GS-13 position or higher
- four years of acquisition experience
- a baccalaureate degree or certification by an Acquisition Career Program Board, and
- one of the following:
 - at least 24 semester credit hours in accounting, business finance, business law, contracts, purchasing, economics, industrial management, marketing, quantitative methods, organization and management
 - at least 35 semester credit hours in the individual's career field and 12 semester hours or equivalent training in the disciplines listed above
 - pass an equivalency exam

Members of the Acquisition Workforce may take equivalency examinations at no cost through their agency testing center to meet the educational requirements of the Acquisition Corps, or may apply through their training departments to take college courses at no cost to the individual.

Level III employees are typically GS-13 and above or O-5 and above. They must have:

- at least four years experience in the acquisition of communications or computer systems, of which at least two years must be in a program office or similar organization (dedicated matrix support to a PM, PEO, DCMC PI, or Supervisor of Shipbuilding)
- completion of IRM 303, Advanced Information Systems Acquisition

Desired qualifications include:

- four additional years of communications/computer systems acquisition experience
- completion of PMT 302, Advanced Program Management.

Career Opportunities for Level II and III Employees:

<p>Career opportunities open to Level II employees include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Branch Chief in a Program Management Office • Software Development staff • Systems Engineering staff • AIS Program Management staff • Acquisition Command HQ staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Executive Officer (PEO) staff • Service HQ staff • AIS Program Manager • Director/Division Chief in an acquisition command • Senior Software Development staff
--	--

Summary

In summary, the communications—computer systems career field is rapidly growing and is critical to our national defense. This reading has the following points:

- the key roles that communications—computer systems personnel play in information technology projects;
- the typical functional responsibilities of DoD personnel within the communications—computer systems career field; and

- potential career opportunities within the communications—computer systems career field.

Additional resources on this career field include:

- Acquisition Workforce Homepage: <http://www.dtic.mil/acqed2/acqed.html>
- Acquisition Education, Training & Career Development:
<http://www.acq.osd.mil/dau/dau.html>
- Service Acquisition Corps Homepage: <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dau/dau.html>
- Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act:
<http://www.dtic.mil/acqed2/legislation/legis.html>.